



Registered Charity No 1105153
Affiliated to the National
Operatic & Dramatic Association
and Kent Drama Association

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

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New Members

Welcome to all new members
We hope you will have a long

Did you know we are on Facebook?



For all you computer minded
people, CODS has its very
own group page on Face-
book with lots of information,
news and photographs.

Visit www.facebook.com

'Cranbrook Operatic and
Dramatic Society CODS
(official page)'

Or speak to Sarah Hutchings,
James Hammond or Steph
Beeken for more information.

CODS WEBSITE:
www.cranbrookods.org.uk

Codswallop!

APRIL 2012



**SPRINGTIME AT LAST!
HAPPY EASTER
TO ALL CODS MEMBERS**

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Luvvies and Techies,

'Fallen Angels' is almost upon us and promises to be FANTASTIC! If you are still dithering about buying your tickets, please, please go ahead and do so. The play is brilliant and funny, the acting will be superb and the stylistic and excellent direction will make this a production of which the society will be justifiably proud. The KDA adjudication will be on Friday 13th (!) and it will be great to see a huge audience turn out for this and the other two performances. The show runs from 12th April until 14th. Tickets are on sale at Phillips Mans Shop or from Maurice on 01580 713887.

The society AGM took place in March and your committee has some new faces.

President – Bill Marshall

Chairman – Annie Chesters

Vice Chairman- Andrew White

Hon Sec – Vicky King

Treasurer – John Tapper

With James Hanaway, Matt Barker, Debs Knight, Marian Cumberland, Maurice Wilkins and Alison Withey-Harrison.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention George's hard work as president and for his un-stinting dedication to the society for the past 55 years. Many thanks George. Bill has agreed to replace him as president and we hope that he will enjoy his new role. Sarah Hutchings and Dennis Russell have stepped down from the committee and I would like to thank them for their commitment as chaperone organiser and as set designer.

We say goodbye to three former members of CODS who have passed away recently and we send our very best wishes to the friends and family of Jack Parsons, Mike Wilkinson and Maisie Hammond.

There is information about the auditions and preparations for 'Oklahoma!' later in Codswallop. Please come along and audition for our next big production and also for the Jubilee Celebration entertainment. This will be an opportunity for people to become involved in a mini production with a short rehearsal period but which will give CODS some exposure on the High Street!

Let Vicky know your e mail address if you are on line and would like to receive Codswallop in full technicolour. You will also be accessible for any extra information or changes of plan which are sometimes sent electronically. See you at 'Fallen Angels'

Annie x

CHAPERONE NEWS

A HUGE thank you to Jackie Barker who has agreed to take over the co-ordination of our Chaperones. This is a vital role within the Society and we are very grateful to Jackie for agreeing to oversee this aspect for us. Also, a big hug of thanks to Sarah Hutchings who is stepping down from the role and leaving big shoes to fill...! Thank you both x

News & Diary Dates

3 SAD FAREWELLS TO FRIENDS

JACK PARSONS

When I moved to Cranbrook in 1956 my neighbour Kathleen Carpenter had little difficulty in getting me to join the CODS where I quickly made friends with a really lively (lovely ?) bunch of enthusiasts of whom Mr. Bank Manager Parsons and his lovely wife Olwyn were stalwarts. Unlike most of us Jack was never interested in showing off on the boards but was one of those really indispensable people who have always been listed as "Backstage" Struggling successfully against the challenges of dear old Vestry Hall's confines and later in the luxury of Queen's Hall Jack was one of the most reliable ever-presents. This facet was echoed in a letter I received today from Jerry Cartwright. He said that when he was Chairman if Jack was asked - or more often volunteered - to do anything he knew that it would be done very promptly and successfully. I had the privilege of proposing the toast of "The First Glorious Seventy-Five Years" at one of our celebration evenings and Jack in his role as President replied: lucky for me I didn't have to follow that! When he finally stopped working behind the scenes Jack became a regular and much appreciated member of the Front of House team where his efforts with our audiences, special guests and Programmes and raffles were so much appreciated. I asked him how - when well-passed hi sixtieth - he had come to the Foyer he had, of course, walked there from home! When I visited him in his last weeks in Bexhill it was so rewarding to hear from him that he was happy there and of course I had to up-date him about us The Society was the richer for all his years with us and we are the poorer for his loss. George H

As I'm sure many of you are aware by now, Jack Parsons died on the 27th February this year. Although being very sad, and indeed a great loss for CODS (he had been a member since 1955) having spoken to his daughter Jenni, she expressed how his passing was peaceful. Jack had been in a residential home in Bexhill since last October where he was happy and content. Prior to this he had had a spell in the Conquest Hospital, Hastings. He had, earlier in 2011 decided to make a 'Living Will'. Thus, when contracting a chest infection earlier in February nature took its course; entirely Jack's choice. Jenni assures that Jack was comfortable and pain free in his last few days. Jenni is having a small, private family funeral on 21st March at Charing Crematorium. There is to be a Thanksgiving Service at St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook at 2.30pm on Monday 23rd April 2012, which would have been Jack's 95th birthday. BRIGHT COLOURS ONLY please!! Donations are being collected for either St. Dunstan's Church Tower Appeal or for CODs; she is keen for there to be a continuation of live theatre in Cranbrook, especially giving opportunities to young people. Donations to placed in the church on the day or sent to K. B. Sills Funeral Directors, Kenwood, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3DT. Jenni would like me to pass her thanks to all of you who've sent kind words via email and cards; she's been more than overwhelmed. Charlotte.

MAISIE HAMMOND

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the death of a dear friend and former member of CODS.

Though Maisie and John moved to be close to family several years ago, many members will remember Maisie as a supporter, performer and musical director. She was struck down with that most cruel of illnesses; Motor Neurone Disease which rendered her unable to make music and which took her from us after her health deteriorated rapidly over recent weeks. Maisie was such a lovely person with outstanding talent and we shall miss her.

She is now at peace after a difficult time. RIP Maisie.

Annie

MIKE WILKINSON

When I was 18 and a student at Cranbrook School, there was a particular day when I was sitting in what we know as the Principal Ladies dressing room, with my best mate and my Drama Teacher. He was trying as kindly as possible to tell me that I was too sensitive to pursue acting as a career and that I should look at having something else "to fall back on". I was sobbing, "But I can't do anything else!" That drama teacher was Mike Wilkinson. And he was right, of course. I can't even deal with a CODS audition rejection very well! Mike always had words of encouragement for me even though he knew I was only ever going to make a hobby of drama. Whenever I was in a production, be it with CODS or with other local societies, he would come along and support me. He sent me such a lovely letter when I was in Pygmalion, saying how proud he was of his ex-student. Mike was a HUGE advocate of live, local theatre and of encouraging his students to at least appreciate, if not grow to love all aspects of the Performing Arts. He fully supported CODS, even though he was sometimes stuck between a rock and a hard place when the school had to take priority over the Society! I know he was immensely popular with his students and colleagues, evident not least by the amount of people at his memorial service. Cranbrook School, the Queens Hall Theatre and I will miss him. Thank you, Mike.

Michelle

*Thank you
Jack, Maisie & Mike
For all you did for CODS and
for your friendship*


**"FALLEN ANGELS"
12th, 13th & 14th April 2012**

**Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society
presents**

FALLEN ANGELS
by Noël Coward

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
12th, 13th, 14th April 2012 7.30pm**

**Tickets £8 available from Phillips Man's
Shop, Cranbrook or telephone 01580 713887
www.cranbrookods.org.uk**
Amateur production by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



A Vintage Comedy

SECSUCLED BY PETER JONES (ETCISTELED CFTICLASS)

**FALLEN ANGELS
AFTERSHOW
DINNER**

**This will take place
on**

Thursday 19th April

At

**The Green Cross
Inn**

Goudhurst

£17.50 per person

**Please contact
Marian Cumberland
for tickets**

**(The question is,
will Jo & Shirley
have any appetite
left...?!)**

Fallen Angels by Noël Coward 12th, 13th and 14th April 2012

KDA Adjudication – Friday, 13th April!

Rehearsing Fallen Angels has been an absolute joy. I have watched each character develop, change, grow and become an entity that is so much more than the words written on the page. Jo, Shirley, Sharon, James, Leon and Glyn have been wonderful to direct; serious but fun, committed but relaxed, individually talented but magnificent as a team.

I have also been blessed with marvellous support behind the scenes. Derek has designed a stylish and detailed Art Deco set and Rita's costumes compliment it perfectly; Sarah Davis has been working hard creating jelly oysters and other delicacies to be consumed on stage; Glyn, Leon and Ruth have recorded some authentic sounding music and Andrew White has done everything from putting up a banner single-handedly to pretending to be Shirley in an evening dress.

Please get your tickets soon and enjoy this gem of a play by one of our great British playwrights.

Jo

**THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
ENTERTAINMENT—6TH JUNE 2012**

11:00am	Street closed	Set up of stage and tables/chairs	Any help gratefully received by
2:30pm	Entertainment begins	Wandering Jazz Band	
3:30pm CODS Entertainment Part 1 Songs from 60	1950s	Oklahoma (if ready) Singing in the Rain Wouldn't it be Lovely	Chorus/singalong Chorus/singalong Solo/singalong
	1960s	Oom Pa Pa Anyone who had a Heart	olo/singalong Solo/chorus
	1970s	You're the One that I Want Bring Me Sunshine	Duet/singalong Duet/singalong
	1980s	Music of the Night	Duet
	1990s	Dancing Queen	Chorus/singalong
	2000s	Always Look on the Bright Side of Life	Company/singalong
4:00pm	Elizabeth Consort	Cranbrook School	
4:30pm CODS Entertainment Part 2 Com-	A kind of mini "Good Old Days" entertainment with compere and music hall style acts	Down at the Old Bull & Bush	Singalong
		My Old Man	Solo/singalong
		Lambeth Walk	Chorus/singalong
	Wartime Medley (inc)	Pack up your Troubles Long Way to Tipperary Run Rabbit Run Roll Out the Barrel White Cliffs of Dover	Singalong With solos
		Rule Britannia	Solo/singalong
		Land of Hope & Glory	Solo/singalong
		National Anthem (two verses)	All
Evening	Bands	A selection of more modern music from local bands	Anyone like to get a band together to play?

We will also be staging a small exhibition of the last 60 years of CODS in the Vestry Hall which will also promote Oklahoma / Calendar Girls.

This is it folks—no more time for negotiation or argument!

There may be slight alternations due to problems with music, etc., but we have come up with a compromise and hope that everyone is happy and can find something they'd like to perform!

Auditions / sing-through will be at Cranbrook School in QH on Monday 16th April.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!

CODS SPONSORED WALK—SUNDAY 10TH MARCH



**PHOTOS COURTESY
OF ANDREW WHITE**

**FULL REPORT TO
FOLLOW IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF
CODSWALLOP**

**HAVE YOU GOT ANY
PHOTOS TO SHARE?**



**RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
"OKLAHOMA!"**

Sing Through

Monday April 23rd – 7.30pm - Queens Hall Theatre

Help Night

Thursday May 3rd – 7.30pm – Performing Arts Centre

Auditions

**Sunday May 13th from 2.30pm – Performing Arts Centre
(Dance Auditions first)**

**If needed Auditions/recalls will take place on Monday 14th
May – 7.30pm Queen's Hall Theatre**

**We are looking for a few children who must be able to sing/
dance/act well.**

**The changing face of the southern states of America and
the friction between cowboys who roam the prairie
with their cattle and the usurping farmers, eager to settle
and toil the very same land, provides the backdrop to this
most enduring of love stories.**

**This is a wonderful show with a strong storyline and fan-
tastic music. There are 23 named characters, plus dancers,
company and a few children.**

Come along and see!

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Angela x

The Back Page

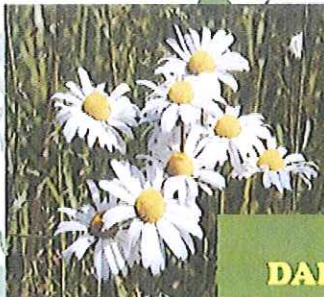
Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your
Codswallop Editor Michelle: 01580 752802
or email: michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in
Codswallop, let me know!

Michelle x

WANTED / FOR SALE

Do you have anything you wish to sell that might be of interest to other members? Are you looking to buy something that another member might be wanting to sell? Do you have an event, an occasion, or a notice you'd like your fellow members to be aware of? If so, for a small donation of **£2 per entry**, you can **ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS OR "WANTS"** in Codswallop. To advertise in the next edition, or for further details, please contact your Editor, Michelle, details at top of this page.



*Here is your
invitation
Would you like to
join?*

THE DAISY CHAIN

Are you a painter/decorator? Can you cook or bake? How are your sewing skills? A good photographer? Then you might be interested in joining?! I've produced a Facebook page directory of friends & family with diverse skills and expertise. Did you know, for instance, that Emma has floristry skills? Or that Annie is a singing teacher? What can you do? My aim has been to produce a list of people that we can refer to when looking for a particular trade or skill, or even advice, which is very often on your doorstep without you realising! What's your speciality? If you're interested in adding your name, contact details and list of skills to The Daisy Chain, please contact michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk I'd love to hear your feedback, comments and suggestions! Thank you.

Michelle XXX

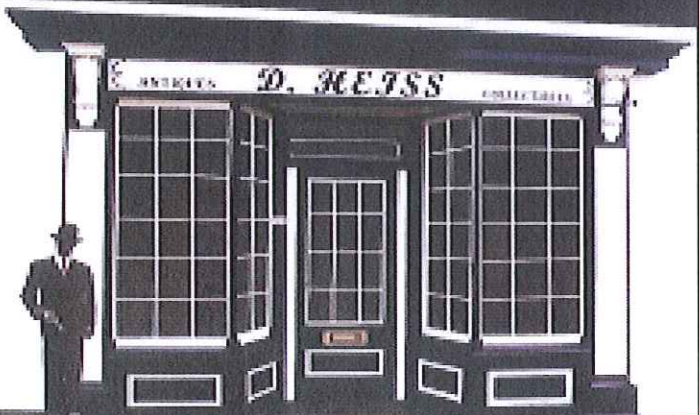
WILLINGTON
PLAYERS

present by arrangement
with Josel Weinberger Ltd.



The Shop at Sly Corner

A thriller by Edward Percy



24TH - 28TH APRIL 7:30PM
HAZLITT THEATRE, MAIDSTONE
01622 758611 www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

**Deadline for copy for
next edition:**

Friday 18th May 2012